

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-08
FCC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 COME-00 BIB-01 ACDA-07
DODE-00 PM-04 L-03 NASA-01 NSC-05 ERDA-05 OES-06 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EURE-00 OIC-02 AF-08
ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /128 W
-----101736Z 126748 /45

O R 101626Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5510
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02556

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETEL ITU PFOR PGOV WB GW GE UR US UK FR
SUBJECT: ITU BROADCAST SATELLITE CONFERENCE:
SOVIET/GDR STATEMENTS ON BERLIN

REFS: (A) STATE 29638; (B) BONN 2378;
(C) GENEVA 885; (D) KORNBLUM-GERMAN TELECON OF
FEBRUARY 9

BEGIN SUMMARY. THERE IS STILL NO AGREED TEXT FOR AN
ALLIED RESPONSE TO THE SOVIET AND GDR STATEMENTS ON
BERLIN REPORTED IN REF (C). US, FRENCH, AND FRG REPS
HAVE REJECTED CHANGES PROPOSED BY THE BRITISH, AND THE
UK REP HAS REPORTED BACK TO LONDON. END SUMMARY.

1. AS REPORTED REF TELECON, THE UK REP (HITCH)
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RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 9,
REQUESTING THAT PARA B OF THE AD REF TEXT IN REF (B)
BE CHANGED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

"IT IS NOT CORRECT TO ASSERT THAT THE QUADRIPARTITE
AGREEMENT DETERMINES THE STATUS OF WEST BERLIN.
ALLIED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN BERLIN DERIVE

FROM THE UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER OF GERMANY AND
THE ASSUMPTION BY THE FOUR POWERS JOINTLY OF
SUPREME AUTHORITY IN GERMANY."

2. AFTER US, FRENCH AND FRG REPS HAD CONFIRMED TO
HITCH THAT THIS PROPOSED CHANGE WAS UNACCEPTABLE, THE
UK EMBASSY CABLED LONDON EARLY FEBRUARY 10 TO URGE
MODIFICATION OF BRITISH INSTRUCTIONS.

3. WHEN THE BONN GROUP MET EARLY THIS AFTERNOON
(FEBRUARY 10), HITCH REPORTED THAT HIBBERT TOOK THE
VIEW THAT IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO GET IT RIGHT
THAN TO GET IT QUICKLY -- THOUGH THIS WAS NOT TO SAY
THAT LONDON WOULD WISH TO MISS THE FEBRUARY 11
DEADLINE FOR RESPONDING TO THE SOVIET PROTEST. HITCH
THEN TABLED THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL FOR REVISION OF
PARA B:

"IT IS NOT CORRECT THAT THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT
DETERMINES THE STATUS OF BERLIN OR ANY PART OF IT.
IN RELATION TO BERLIN, THE FOUR POWERS ACT ON THE
BASIS OF THEIR QUADRIPARTITE RIGHTS AND RESPON-
SIBILITIES, AND OF THE CORRESPONDING WARTIME
AGREEMENTS AND DECISIONS OF THE FOUR POWERS,
WHICH WERE NOT AFFECTED BY THE QUADRIPARTITE
AGREEMENT."

4. WITH REGARD TO THE ISSUE WHICH HIBBERT'S
INSTRUCTIONS RAISED, CONCERNING THE DESIRABILITY OF
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EMPHASIZING "ALLIED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES"
RATHER THAN "THE STATUS OF BERLIN," HITCH STATED THAT
HIS AMBASSADOR HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO LONDON THAT THE
UK BONN GROUP REP WOULD BE UNABLE TO CONTINUE THE
DISCUSSION FURTHER WITHOUT A FULL PAPER SETTING
OUT THE REASONING BEHIND WHAT APPEARED TO BE AN
EVOLUTION IN LONDON'S THINKING. HE SAID THE EMBASSY
HAD BEEN PROMISED SUCH A PAPER IN DUE COURSE.

5. FRG REP (HENZE) MADE THE FOLLOWING THREE POINTS
IN RESPONSE TO THE BRITISH PRESENTATION:

A. HE THOUGHT WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO
ANSWER THE SOVIET PROTEST, AND THE TIME IS SHORT.

B. HE WONDERED WHETHER IT WAS WISE TO GIVE SO
LONG AN ANSWER TO A RATHER SHORT SOVIET
STATEMENT, ONE WHICH HAD BEEN MADE WITH MUCH LESS
EMPHASIS THAN OTHER SOVIET PROTESTS.

C. THE FRG WAS NOT OPPOSED TO CHANGING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 02556

ESTABLISHED LANGUAGE IF THERE WAS A REASON FOR DOING
SO, BUT IF WE DO SO WE SHOULD BE FULLY CONSCIOUS OF
THE REASON. IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO DO SO IN THIS
INSTANCE, WHERE WE ARE UNDER TIME PRESSURE AND
THERE IS NO NEED FOR SUCH A DETAILED ANSWER.

5. HENZE CONCLUDED THAT HE WOULD THUS FAVOR USING
THE ORIGINAL AD REF TEXT AND LEAVING THE MORE
DETAILED DISCUSSION UNTIL HITCH HAD RECEIVED THE
PROMISED PAPER FROM LONDON.

6. BOTH FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) AND US REP EXPRESSED
FULL AGREEMENT WITH HITCH'S REMARKS. THE US REP ADDED
THAT HE SAW NO NEED FOR FLESHING OUT THE SIMPLE
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STATEMENT IN THE ORIGINAL TEXT. IF THERE WERE SUCH A NEED, THE PROPOSED BRITISH LANGUAGE WOULD NOT SEEM TO MEET IT, IN AS MUCH AS IT WAS NOT RESPONSIVE TO THE SOVIET COMPLAINT.

WHAT WE WERE ANSWERING WAS THE SIMPLE SOVIET MIS-STATEMENT THAT THE QA HAD DETERMINED THE STATUS OF WEST BERLIN. US REP CONCLUDED THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS PERMITTED ACCEPTANCE ONLY OF THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE UK TEXT.

7. HITCH THEN DISTRIBUTED THE FOLLOWING FALLBACK LANGUAGE, WHICH WAS TAKEN FROM THE ALLIED DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK NOTE OF APRIL 14, 1975:

"IT IS NOT CORRECT THAT THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT DETERMINES THE STATUS OF BERLIN OR ANY PART OF IT. THE QUADRIpartite STATUS OF GREATER BERLIN STEMS FROM THE ORIGINAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FOUR POWERS. QUADRIpartite WARTIME AND POSTWAR AGREEMENTS AND DECISIONS BASED ON THESE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES STIPULATED THAT GREATER BERLIN WAS TO BE A SPECIAL AREA UNDER THE JOINT AUTHORITY OF THE FOUR POWERS ENTIRELY DISTINCT FROM THE SOVIET ZONE OF OCCUPATION IN GERMANY."

8. THE OTHER THREE REPS STUCK BY THEIR PREFERENCE FOR A SINGLE SENTENCE -- EITHER THE ORIGINAL AD REF TEXT OR THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE ABOVE BRITISH TEXTS.

9. HITCH AGREED TO REPORT ONCE MORE TO LONDON, AND THE BONN GROUP ADJOURNED TO AWAIT DEVELOPMENTS.

10. COMMENT: WE ADMIRE HIBBERT'S PERSEVERANCE, ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WE UNDERSTAND HIS MOTIVES.

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HITCH IS CERTAIN THAT HE DOES NOT WISH TO SEE THE CONFERENCE CLOSE WITH THE SOVIET COMPLAINT UNANSWERED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENTAL REACTIONS, COMMUNICATION SATELLITES, BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE MATTERS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN02556
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770048-0362
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770255/aaaabwxa.tel
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 29638, 77 BONN 2378, 77 GENEVA 885
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3358067
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITU BROADCAST SATELLITE CONFERENCE: SOVIET/GDR STATEMENTS ON BERLIN
TAGS: ETEL, PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE, GC, UR, US, UK, FR, ITU
To: STATE GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/925e74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009